

Remarks

The Office has imposed a three-way restriction on the originally filed 27 claims. The Office defines the claim groupings as:

Group I – Claims 1-10

Group II – Claims 11-20

Group III – Claims 21-27

The Office alleges that group I and II are related as product and process of use. The applicant objects to this characterization of the claims and points out that claim 11 recites steps that have equivalents in the system claim elements of claim 1. As such, the claims should be examined in unison.

The Office alleges that group I and II are related as combination and subcombination. The applicant also objects to this characterization. Although aspects of the controller box as recited in claim 21 are more broadly positioned than as recited for the controller box in claim 1, it is clear that the claim set identified by the Office as group III is directed towards the controller box utilized within the system claim.

The Office alleges that group II and III are related as product and process use. The applicant objects to this characterization of the claims and points out that claim 11 recites steps that have equivalents in the system claim elements of claim 21. As such, the claims should be examined in unison.

Thus, the applicant objects to the restriction requirement being imposed by the Office. Claims 1-10 are directed towards a system for providing closed-loop operation for promotional events for a video gaming machine. Claims 11-20 are directed towards the method of providing the operation of the system of claims 1-10 and claims 21-27 are directed towards a specific

aspect the system of claims 1-10. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests the Office to remove this restriction requirement. However, to comply with the Official Communication, the applicant sets for an election of Group I for further prosecution should the Office disagree with the applicant's position.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the currently pending claims are in condition for examination and respectfully requests that the case be further processed. If the Office has any questions or if there are any actions that can be handled through an Examiner's Amendment, the applicant requests the Office to contact the attorney of record using the below-provided contact information.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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